economical and to avoid unnecessary harassment to the tax-payers; and

(d) if not, the reason therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. The doubts raised regarding the efficacy of the PAN system are mis-conceived. There are adequate checks in the process of allotment of Permanent Account Numbers under the new series to ensure that the Number allotted is a unique one, and fully meets the requirements of the IT Department. There is no proposal to review the system.

Representation to weaker sections in the appointment of judges

*10. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:

SHRI AKHILESH DAS :

Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Supreme Court has since tendered its opinion on the question of the procedure for appointment of High Court and Supreme Court Judges; if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether in this connection, Government have also considered the question of ensuring that due representation to weaker sections is given in the matter of appointment of Judges; and

(c) what final decision has since been taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI M. THAMBI DURAI): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir.

The Advisory Opinion has laid down that the Chief Justice of India is obliged to consult a Collegium of his four seniormost Colleagues for appointment in the Supreme Court and a Collegium of two seniormost Judges for appointment of Chief Justice/Judges of the High Courts.

As regards transfer of Chief Justice or Judge of High Court, the Chief Justice of India is required to consult the four seniormost Judges of the Supreme Court. All consultation would be made in writing. Recommendation made by the Chief justice of India without adhering to the process of consultation is not binding upon the Government.

Appointment of Judges of the Supreme Court and High Courts is made under Articles 124 and 217 of the Constitution which do not provide for reservation for any caste or class of persons. The Government have, however, from time to time addressed letters to the Chief Ministers of the States and the Chief Justices of the High Courts requesting them to locate suitable persons from the Bar belonging to Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, other Backward Classes, Minorities and Women for appointment as High Court Judges.

Conversion of Vadodara-Nasik Road into National Highway

*11. SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the action taken by Government for conversion of Gujarat State Highways-Vadodara-Porsinor-Netrang-Vyara-Ahwa-Saputara-Nasik road linking NH No. 8 with NH No. 6 into National Highways;

(b) whether the State Government of Gujarat has sent this proposal; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI M. THAMBI DURAI): (a) to (c) Yes Sir, the State Govt, had submitted a proposal for conversion of Vadodara-Por-Sinor-Netrang-Vyara-Ahwa-Saputara-Nasik-road linking NH-8 with NH-6 as National Highway for consideration during 9th Plan period. The proposal could not be considered for declaration as new national highway due to inter-se priority of other proposals received from the Government of Gujarat and other State Governments and resource constraint.

राज्यों का गैर-विकास व्यय

*12.**श्री राज मोहिन्दर सिंह** :

श्री बलवन्त सिंह रामूवालिया :

क्या वित्त मंत्री यह बातने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क)क्या यह सच है कि गत एक दशक से राज्यों के